

I had a message from **Bence**, who is now self isolating back in Hungary:

*Dear Community, I have always had a dream, a dream to travel to the UK, to get to know the English culture and especially to visit an Anglican congregation. This dream came true and I will be forever thankful for it. Sadly unfortunate things happened in the world and I had to leave early. Despite these happenings I had a wonderful 7 month there and I will always remember it with joy. If I could, I would go back without hesitation. God bless you!*

Some missionary news from **Michael Brown** in Argentina:

*On the 19<sup>th</sup> of March President Alberto Fernández announced a total lock-down in Argentina. It means nobody can go onto the streets, except to buy essentials (food, medicines and petrol), and those who work in those industries, as well as health workers and police. Schools and universities are closed and public meetings banned; public transport has been suspended and orders closed. So we are all at home. We are well, and in good spirits. Schools and universities are beginning to put study materials online, so Kevin and Chris will have some work to do - this is not holiday time! I work most of the time at home anyway, so it will not be so difficult for me to adjust. Silvia is allowed to visit her dad (who lives alone and is blind) to help care for him. There has been some panic buying in the supermarkets, but our local shops have good stocks and competitive prices. At the beginning of March we had our team meeting, we made good progress, and finished the checking of Amos. This will now go to testing in the community later this year (travel restrictions permitting). Our next team meeting, planned for the week following Easter, will now almost certainly be cancelled, as we wait to see how the coronavirus outbreak develops.*

From **JP** back in Brazil:

*My flight back to Brazil was cancelled, but after a few days I got a flight from London to Sao Paulo. I am in quarantine from my parents and sister. It is like being in a VIP prison cell. I have started my "home office" assisting my home church with on line transmission of services. I had an amazing time in the UK. Mega blessings to you.*

I have two verses I want to share with you, one here, and one at the end of the letter:  
2 Chronicles 20:12

*"We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you".*

In context a vast army came against King Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah, and the people sought the LORD. All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones stood there before the LORD. A prophet prophesied in the Spirit, "Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. Well people of St Andrew's let's say to the LORD, We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you. And let's remember God rules.

I hope someone from church has contacted you by phone. I am drawing up a list of people so that everyone will be phoned by at least someone. Let me know if you would like to take on this responsibility too. 0161 291 9134, [cjphobbs@gmail.com](mailto:cjphobbs@gmail.com)

### **Some history**

We know that churches continued open during the First and Second World War. It seems strange that we are not able to come together to pray to God to end the plague of Covid 19.

The Book of Common Prayer has a prayer in the time of any common Plague or Sickness:

*O Almighty God, who in thy wrath didst send a plague upon thine own people in the wilderness, for their obstinate rebellion against Moses and Aaron; and also, in the time of king David, didst slay with the plague of pestilence threescore and ten thousand, and yet remembering thy mercy didst save the rest: Have pity upon us miserable sinners, who now are visited with great sickness and mortality; that like as thou didst then accept of an atonement, and didst command the destroying Angel to cease from punishing, so it may now please thee to withdraw from us this plague and grievous sickness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

The thing is, as good citizens **we really don't want to spread this plague**. When you read of the agonising death of people in hospital, being restrained as they struggle to breathe, we ought to do whatever we can to keep the disease from spreading. If it develops the way it has in parts of Italy our hospitals will need more beds and respirators than we have available. **So everyone, not just vulnerable people and people over 70, try and keep interacting with people outside your home to the least possible**. Maybe read those books that you have at home, watch tv, get connected by internet if you can...

Does William Mompesson mean anything to you?

William Mompesson (1639–1709) was a clergyman, whose decisive action when his Derbyshire parish, Eyam, became infected with the plague in the 17th century averted more widespread catastrophe. He kept his parishioners from leaving their village, and stopped the plague spreading. Sadly he lost his wife and the plague killed many in their village. But it was better for many others.

I would love it if none of us died of this plague. Let's imagine our homes are our own little village of Eyam, and stay inside.

What about the Interdict?

There was a time when no services could take place in church. Pope Innocent III also placed the kingdom of [England](#) under an interdict for six years between March 1208 and May 1213, after [King John](#) refused to accept the pope's appointee [Stephen Langton](#) as [Archbishop of Canterbury](#). The only services allowed were private baptism and extreme unction given to the dying. So no services has happened before, but a long long ago.

They didn't have the internet or phones back then...

On Sundays we are putting a little service on line, on the church website [www.standrewsheadleholme.org.uk](http://www.standrewsheadleholme.org.uk) and also on St Andrew's Cheadle Hulme "YouTube" site.

Did you know as well as the St Andrew's Cheadle Hulme facebook page, for speaking out to anyone, there is a "St Andrew's and Emmanuel Cheadle Hulme" facebook members group, where we can share prayer requests, shopping hints, and anything to encourage one another in this strange time.

We had a good prayer meeting on Monday night using Zoom. Look out for the code on the St Andrew's and Emmanuel Facebook group (you have to join this one) for next week.

I am going to be asking those who are able to deliver a leaflet to the houses in Cheadle Hulme North ward soon, as part of a Neighbourhood initiative from the local councillors and churches.

And If you are online: <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen> Audible are making their site free for now and you can listen to lots of different books being read. Good for children too! As is "BBC Teach"

The other verses I want to share are 3 John 13, 14

*"I have much to write to you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink. I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face."* Please let me know of needs and prayer requests and ideas to help others,

Until next time, Christopher